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MEMORANDUM

TO: Family Child Care Providers

FROM: Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: April 29, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

Self-employed Family Child Care Providers have expressed some concerns that the one-time CARES Act stipend may adversely affect their ability to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. Eligibility for PUA per the Maine Department of Labor (MDOL);

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED STARTING MAY 1. The program provides unemployment coverage for the self-employed and others not normally covered by unemployment insurance. People whose claim doesn't require further review should begin receiving benefits within seven days from filing. All claims will be retroactive to the date of business closure or job separation provided on the application, back until March 15. More information on PUA and instructions on how to apply can be found on MDOL's website: <https://www.maine.gov/unemployment/pua/>.

The one-time CARES Act stipend amount is designed to help cover the costs of addressing pandemic expenses like extensive cleaning, rent/ mortgage costs, supplies, food spoilage, etc. It is being paid because child care providers have lost a portion or all the children in their care, which has led to business issues and shortages. It is important to note that this stipend is not considered income for unemployment purposes and is not reportable on weekly Unemployment Insurance claims.

If you have questions, please contact the Maine Department of Labor, 1-800-593-7660 or online at <https://www.maine.gov/labor/contact/index.html> .